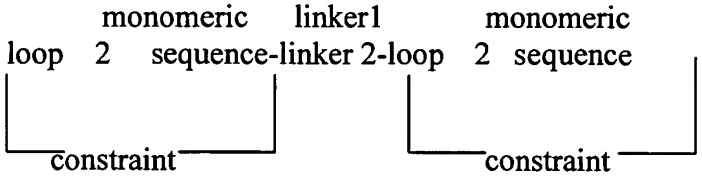
(I)

Claim 4. [A] The compound according to claim 3, wherein the constraint comprises a covalent grouping of atoms.

Claim 5. [A] The compound according to claim 3, wherein the constraint and the linker may be the same or are different.

Claim 6. [A] The compound according to claim 2, wherein said compound is a tricyclic dimeric compound of [general] formula (II):



(II)

Claim 7. [A] The compound according to claim 6, wherein each of the constraint, linker 1 and linker 2 may be the same or are different.

Claim 8. [A] The compound according to [any one of] claim[s] 3 [to 7], wherein each of the constraint, linker, linker 1 or linker 2 has between [at] 0 to 20 carbon atoms, and 0 to 10 heteroatoms, wherein said heteroatoms are selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P.

Claim 9. [A] The compound according to claim 8, wherein each of the constraint, linker, linker 1 or linker 2, is either saturated, unsaturated [and/]or an aromatic ring[s].

Claim 10. [A] The according to claim 8 [or claim 9], wherein each of the constraint, linker, linker 1 or linker 2, comprises single [and/]or double bonds.

Claim 11. [A] The compound according to [according to any one of] claim[s] 8 [to 10], wherein each of the constraint, linker, linker 1 or linker 2, comprises one or more chemical groups selected from the group consisting of amide, ester, disulphide, thioether, ether, phosphate and amine.

Claim 12. [A] The compound according to [any one of] claim[s] 3 [to 10], wherein the constraint is obtained by [either]:

(i) cyclising [the] an N-terminal amine with [the] a C-terminal carboxyl acid function, either directly via an amide bond between [the] an N-terminal nitrogen and a C-terminal carbonyl, or indirectly via a spacer group; or

(ii) cyclising via [the] formation of a covalent bond between [the] side chains of two residues, either directly or via a spacer group as described in (i) above; or

(iii) forming a disulphide bond between two cysteine residues, either directly or via a spacer group as described in (i) above; or

(iv) forming a thioether bond between a cysteine residue and an ω-halogenated amino acid residue, either directly or via a spacer group as described in (i) above; or

(v) cyclising via the formation of an amide bond between a side chain and either [the] a C-terminal carboxyl or an N-terminal amine, either directly or via a spacer group as described in (i) above.

Claim 13. [A] The compound according to [any one of] claim[s] 3 [to 10], wherein each of the linker, linker 1 or linker 2 is obtained by either:

(i) cyclising via the formation of a covalent bond between the side chains of two residues, either directly or via a spacer group; or

(ii) forming a disulphide bond between two cysteine residues, either directly or via a spacer group as described in (i) above; or

(iii) forming a thioether bond between a cysteine residue and an ω-halogenated amino acid residue, either directly or via a spacer group as described in (i) above; or

(iv) cyclising via the formation of an amide bond between a side chain and either [the] a C-terminal carboxyl or an N-terminal amine, either directly or via spacer group as described in (i) above.

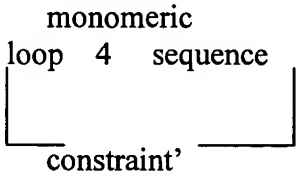
Claim 14. [A] The compound according to claim 12 [or claim 13], wherein said formation of a covalent bond between [the] side chains of two residues is via the formation of an amide bond a lysine residue and either an aspartic acid residue or glutamic acid residue.

Claim 15. [A] The compound according to claim 12 [or claim 13], herein the side chain in (ii) is either a lysine or an aspartate residue.

Claim 16. [A] The compound according to claim 12, wherein the cyclising of the N-terminal amine with the C-terminal carboxyl acid is via condensation with an ω-amino carboxylic acid.

Claim 17. [A] The compound according to [any one of] claim[s] 12 [to 16], wherein the residues contributing to the side chains are either derived from the monomeric loop 2 sequence [itself], or incorporated into or added on to the monomeric loop 2 sequence.

Claim 18. [A] The compound according to claim 2, wherein said compound is a monomeric, monocyclic compound of [general] formula (III):



(III)

Claim 19. [A] The compound according to claim 17, wherein said constraint is obtained by cyclising the N-terminal amine with the C-terminal carboxyl acid function, either directly via an amide bond between the N-terminal nitrogen and C-terminal carbonyl, or indirectly via a spacer group.

Claim 20. [A] The compound according to claim 19, wherein the spacer group [consists of] comprises at least one [or more] additional amino acid residue[s].

Claim 21. [A] The compound according to claim 20, wherein [the] or one least [or more] additional amino acid residue[s] includes comprises an α-[a] ω-amino carboxylic acid residue[s].

Claim 22. [A] The compound according to claim 20, wherein the residues contributing to the side chains are derived from the monomeric loop 4 sequence [itself], or incorporated into or added on to the monomeric loop 4 sequence.

Claim 23. [A]The compound according to [any one of claim[s] 1 [to 22], wherein one or more amino acids is replaced by its corresponding D-amino acid.

Claim 24. [A] The compound according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 23], wherein one or more peptide bonds is replaced by a structure more resistant to metabolic degradation.

Claim 25. [A] The compound according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 23], wherein individual amino acids in said compound are replaced by analogous structures [as described herein].

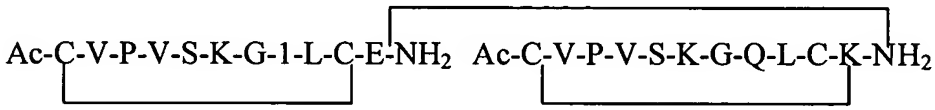
Claim 26. [A] The compound according to claim 25, wherein said analogous structures are selected from the group consisting of *gem*-diaminoalkyl groups, alkylmalonyl groups (with or without modified termini), alkyl, acyl and amine groups.

Claim 27. [A] The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is a formula (IV) or formula (V):

(IV)

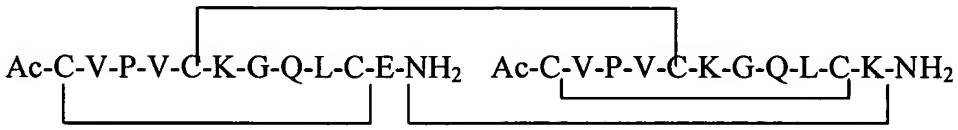
(V).

Claim 28. [A] The compound according to claim 1 wherein said compound is of formula (VI):



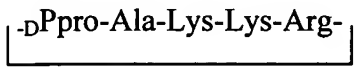
(VI).

Claim 29. [A] The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is of formula (VII):



(VII).

Claim 30. [A] The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is of formula (VIII):



(VIII).

Claim 31. A composition[,] comprising [a] the compound according to [any one] claim[s] 1 [to 30], together with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier, or a carrier or diluent which does not adversely affect the growth of cells in culture.

Claim 32. [A] The composition according to claim 30, wherein said composition is formulated for oral, intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intrathecal, intraventricular or topical administration.

Claim 33. [A] The composition according to claim 31 [or claim 32], wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of dextrose, mannitol, sucrose and lactose.

Claim 34. [A] The composition according to claim 33, further comprising one or more buffer [and/]or bulking agents.

Claim 35. [A] The composition according to claim 34, wherein the buffer is selected from the group consisting of acetate, citrate and phosphate.

Claim 36. [A] The composition according to claim 33, wherein the bulking agent is selected from the group consisting of serum albumin and human serum albumin.

Claim 37. [A] The composition according to claim 31, used as a culture medium additive for promotion of growth of neuronal cells *in vitro*.

Claim 38. [A] The composition according to claim[37], 31 wherein the carrier or diluent is water, a saline solution, or a buffer solution.

Claim 39. [A] The composition according to claim 37 [or claim 38], wherein the concentration of compound is in the range 1-500μM.

Claim 40. [A] [culture medium] composition according to claim 39, wherein the concentration of compound is in the range 1-100μM.

Claim 41. A method of treating a condition characterized by neuronal deficit or neuronal death, comprising [the step of] administering an effective amount of [a] the compound according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 30], or a composition according to any one of claims 31 [to 37], to a subject in need of such treatment.

Claim 42. [A] The method according to claim 41, wherein the condition being treated is selected from the group consisting of neurodegenerative disease[s], a neurodegenerative condition[s] caused by insult, and peripheral sensory neuropathi[es]y.

Claim 43. [A] The method according to claim 42, wherein the neurodegenerative disease[s] are selected from the group consisting of motor neurone disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), progressive spinal muscular atrophy, infantile muscular atrophy, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, Parkinson's Disease, Parkinson-Plus syndrome, Gaumanian Parkinsonian dementia complex, progressive bulbar atrophy and Alzheimer's disease.

Claim 44. [A] The method according to claim 42, wherein the insult arises from ischaemia, hypoxia, neural injury, surgery, and exposure to a neurotoxins [such as N-methyl-4-phenyl-1, 2, 3, 6-tetrahydropyridine)].

Claim 45. [A] The method according to claim 42, wherein the peripheral sensory neuropathies result from exposure to a drug[s (such as cis-platin)], a toxin[s], diabetes and mononeuropathy multiplex.

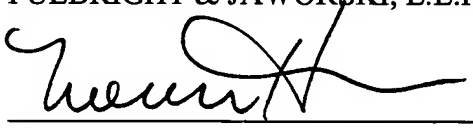
Claim 46. [A] The method according to claim 41, wherein the route of administration is selected from the group consisiting of oral, intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intrathecal, intraventricular and topical administration.

REMARKS

Entry of the amendment is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI, L.L.P.



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